

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Rainbow Motel

### 2. Location

street & number 11520 Rockville Pike    not for publicationcity, town Rockville    vicinity of    congressional district 4thstate Maryland county Montgomery

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Green Acres Corp.street & number    telephone no.:   city, town    state and zip code   

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 2247street & number    folio 46city, town Rockville state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MnCPPC Historic Sites Inventorydate 1976    federal X state X county    local   pository for survey records Park Historian's Officecity, town Rockville state Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

M:30-10

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a massive, two-story frame structure, with several adjoining wings, etc. The main block is a hip-roofed, three-bay section that faces east. An imposing, two-story, pedimented portico projects from the center section. There is a central door here, that is flanked on each side by large, 6/6 windows. The other bays also have large, 6/6 windows.

A massive brick chimney stack exits from this slope of the roof, south-of-center. The north and south end slopes feature double dormers. To the SW rear, is a slightly-lower wing of similar design. All in all, an imposing edifice left over from the early-20th Century Rockville Pike "estate era." Now used as a rather seedy-looking motel.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8. Significance

Survey No.

M: 30-10

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates      circa. 1902      Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Rainbow Motel is significant as an example of "Estate" style architecture popularly built during the early part of the twentieth century. The house is believed to have been built about 1902 for Herman and Lucia Hollerith.<sup>1</sup> The house was built on 7.94 acres of land referred to as "Addition to Wilson's Discovery" and "Dann" which the Holleriths purchased in April of 1901 from Harry W. Blunt, Jr.<sup>2</sup>

In October of 1912, the Holleriths sold the house to Morgan and Grace Beach.<sup>3</sup> The Beaches lived in the house until 1926 when they sold it to Frank Abbo.<sup>4</sup> The house then became the "Villa Roma Club" or "Roma Gardens."<sup>5</sup> Villa Roma was a club and a restaurant featuring dinner, dancing and live entertaining (Kate Smith sang here before she made it big). The club had a fourteen piece band and brought in live entertainers. People who recall going there say that it was "really something" and it was all there was in the way of dining and entertainment between Rockville and Bethesda. Unfortunately, when the banks closed down during the depression, Frank Abbo lost the club.<sup>6</sup>

In 1934, Frank defaulted on the mortgage and the house was sold by a court appointed trustee. The property was then described as located on the Rockville Pike, about 3 miles from Rockville. It was improved by a three story dwelling of about fourteen rooms, four baths, cellar, hot water heat, electric lights and an artisian well. The house was surrounded by shade trees and had a "macadam" driveway from Rockville Pike to the house. Also on the property were three outbuildings used as servants quarters, a barn, garage and stable combined, an engine house and other outbuildings as well as an orchard.<sup>7</sup> The house was sold to Lucia B. Hollerith, widow, in May.<sup>8</sup>

In April of 1936, Lucia sold the house to Frank and Gwendolyn Davis.<sup>9</sup> They sold it in July of 1948 and it is now the property of Green Acres Corporation.<sup>10</sup> It is presently used as the rather run-down Rainbow Motel.

see attachment sheet A for footnotes

## Attachment Sheet A

<sup>1</sup>The date given is based on the date that the land was purchased and the date that it first appears on the tax records with substantial improvements (the improvements listed jumped from \$425 in value in 1901 to \$8,500 in 1902).

- <sup>2</sup>Deed TD 17/77, Mont. Co. Land Records.
- <sup>3</sup>Deed 234/452, " "
- <sup>4</sup>Deed 402/210, " "
- <sup>5</sup>Equity #7081, 68/178, Mont. Co. Judgement Records.
- <sup>6</sup>Conversation with Robert Abbo, son of Frank Abbo, deceased, 1/83.
- <sup>7</sup>Equity #7081, 68/178, Mont. Co. Judgement Records.
- <sup>8</sup>Deed 572/248, Mont. Co. Land Records.
- <sup>9</sup>Deed 624/28, " "
- <sup>10</sup>Deed 2247/46, " "

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:30-10

Mont. Co. Land Records  
Mont. Co. Judgement Records  
Conversation with Robert Abbo, 1/83

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 43,560 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Crawfordorganization M.C. Hist. Preservation Comm. date 1/83

street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Rockville state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

O'Donoghue Estate?

AND/OR COMMON

Rainbow Motel

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

NW Corner of Rockville Pike &amp; Wall Lane

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
☒ ACCESSIBLE  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☒ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Rainbow Motel Corp.

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:30-10

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a massive, two-story frame structure, with several adjoining wings, etc. The main block is a hip-roofed, three-bay section that faces east. An imposing, two-story, pedimented portico projects from the center section. There is a central door here, that is flanked on each side by large, 6/6 windows. The other bays also have large, 6/6 windows.

A massive brick chimney stack exits from this slope of the roof, south-of-center. The north and south end slopes feature double dormers. To the SW rear, is a slightly-lower wing of similar design. All in all, an imposing edifice left over from the early-20th Century Rockville Pike "estate era." Now used as a rather seedy-looking motel.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:30-10

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC      | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC    | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE               | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS         | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:30-10

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

5/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



NAME

ROCKVILLE PIKE ESTATES  
(NOW RAINBOW MOTEL)

LOCATION ROCKVILLE PIKE + WALL LANE, ROCKVILLE, MA

FACADE S

N: 30-10.

PHOTO TAKEN 5/14/75  
M. DWYER